

### BUDGET CUTBACK

On Wednesday the Legislature sent Governor Davis a bill ([SB 1 \(3x\) – Peace](#)) that cuts the current state budget by about \$2.2 billion. The vote on the bill was 40-0 in the Senate, and 66-6 in the Assembly. The bill represents a first step to resolving the estimated \$12.5 billion deficit for the upcoming 2002-03 budget year.

### LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

More bills were introduced this week, bringing the total so far this year to over 300. FYI: The last day for bills to be introduced is February 22. Compared to the “old days” the number of bills introduced each session has dropped significantly. In 1957, for example, over 6,700 bills were introduced. Until the early 1990s there was no limit on the number of bills that a legislator could introduce. Today the maximum number of bills that a member of the Assembly can introduce in a regular session (more about this below) is 30, and for each senator it is 65.

### REGULAR AND EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS

In addition to regular sessions of the Legislature, the Governor has the authority to call special (or “extraordinary”) sessions to deal with specific issues (e.g., energy, the Budget). Bills introduced in one of these sessions may address only those issues specified in the proclamation calling the session, and generally take effect on the 91<sup>st</sup> day after adjournment of the special session, rather than on the first day of the following year. Special session bills are designated by one or more “X’s” after the number.

In addition to the different rules that apply to special sessions, the different bills and other publications are color-coded for ease of recognition. Where regular session publications are an off-white color, special session publications are much more colorful. This year there are green publications for the second extraordinary session (pertaining to energy) and lavender publications for the third extraordinary session (budget.)

Bills introduced during an extraordinary session do not count towards a member’s bill limit, nor is there a limit on the number of bills a member can introduce during an extraordinary session.

### CONSTITUTIONAL FILE CLEANING

The Legislature completed by Wednesday, January 30, its consideration of bills introduced in the first year of the 2001-02 legislative session that did not pass their house of origin in the first year (“carryover bills”). Those bills not approved by the January 31<sup>st</sup> constitutional deadline are automatically returned to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate, as appropriate, and may not be acted upon for the remainder of the session. The legislative history of such bills will say something like: “Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56. Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution.” Joint Rule 56 is the legislative rule implementing the constitutional requirement.

### ARBITRATOR STANDARDS PROPOSED

The Judicial Council has circulated proposed [Ethics Standards for Neutral Arbitrators in Contractual Arbitration](#). The deadline for submitting comments is February 22, 2002. [SB 475 \(Escutia\)](#), enacted last year, requires the Judicial Council to adopt such standards by July 1, 2002. The proposed standards may be addressed during a hearing scheduled for February 12 before the Assembly Judiciary Committee on the subject of arbitration. The Judicial Council has also circulated proposed [Standards of Conduct for Mediators in Court-Connected Mediation Programs for Civil Cases](#). The deadline for submitting comments is February 12, 2002.

### RUMOR MILL

[Ellen Corbett](#) (D. San Leandro/Hayward) will be the new chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee.